Please amend the present application as follows:

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("———") or brackets ("[[ ]]"), as is applicable:

1.　　(Currently amended) A method for enabling electronic document ratification, the method comprising:

a printing device receiving ~~with a printing device~~ an ~~unmodifiable~~ electronic document transmitted to the printing device from a separate sending device via a network;

the printing device printing the electronic document to provide a recipient with a hard copy of the document upon which the recipient can write;

~~collecting with the printing device handwritten content from a recipient of the document~~ the printing device scanning handwritten content manually handwritten on the hard copy by the recipient; and

the printing device adding ~~data reflective of~~ the handwritten content to the electronic document without replacing original content of the electronic document.

2.　　(Canceled)

3.　　(Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an ~~unmodifiable~~ electronic document comprises the printing device receiving a PDF file.

4-6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein scanning handwritten content comprises the printing device only scanning the manually handwritten content.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein only scanning the manually handwritten content comprises the printing device only scanning handwritten content contained within an input block of the document.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein scanning handwritten content comprises the printing device scanning an entire printout of the document and comparing data obtained through the scanning with data of the received ~~unmodifiable~~ electronic document to identify the handwritten content was added by the recipient.

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein adding ~~data~~ the handwritten content comprises the printing device adding ~~data~~ the handwritten content within an input block of the ~~unmodifiable~~ electronic document.

12.	(Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one of the printing device ~~re~~printing the ~~electronic~~ document after the ~~data~~ handwritten content has been added, transmitting the ~~electronic~~ document after the ~~data~~ handwritten content has been added, and storing the ~~electronic~~ document after the ~~data~~ handwritten content has been added.

13.	(Canceled)

14.	(Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 1, further comprising the sending device identifying an input block of the ~~unmodifiable~~ electronic document prior to ~~sending~~ transmitting the ~~unmodifiable~~ electronic document to the printing device.

15.	(Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 1, further comprising the sending device adding metadata to the ~~unmodifiable~~ electronic document that identifies that the electronic document is to be ratified prior to transmitting the electronic document to the printing device.

16.	(Currently amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 1, further comprising the sending device adding metadata to the ~~unmodifiable~~ electronic document that identifies a location of an input block of the electronic document prior to transmitting the electronic document to the printing device.

17.   (Currently amended) A system for enabling electronic document ratification, the system comprising:

a sending device configured to transmit an ~~unmodifiable~~ electronic document; and

a printing device configured to receive the ~~transmitted~~ electronic document transmitted by the sending device, to print the electronic document to provide a recipient with a hard copy of the document upon which the recipient can write; to ~~collect~~ scan handwritten content ~~from a~~ manually handwritten on the hard copy by the recipient ~~of the document~~, and to add ~~data reflective of~~ the handwritten content to the electronic document without replacing original content of the electronic document.

18.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the printing device comprises at least one of a digital sender and a multi-function peripheral (MFP) device.

19.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the printing device comprises a multi-function peripheral (MFP) device configured to print, copy, scan, and transmit documents.

20.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the printing device comprises a document scanner.

21.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the printing device is configured to only scan the handwritten content <u>that has been added to the hard copy by the recipient</u>.

22.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the printing device is configured to compare scanned data with data of the ~~transmitted~~ <u>received electronic</u> document.

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the printing device comprises means for adding ~~data~~ <u>the handwritten content</u> within an input block of the <u>electronic</u> document.

25.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the sending device comprises means for adding metadata to the ~~unmodifiable~~ <u>electronic</u> document that identifies at least one of that the <u>electronic</u> document is to be ratified and a location of an input block of the <u>electronic</u> document.

26-39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently amended) A printing device, comprising:

a processor;

a scanner configured to scan documents containing handwritten content; and

memory including a document ratification manager that is configured to receive an ~~unmodifiable~~ electronic document <u>transmitted to the printing device via a network</u>, <u>to print the electronic document to provide a recipient with a hard copy of the document upon which the recipient can write,</u> to ~~collect~~ <u>scan</u> handwritten content ~~from a~~ <u>manually handwritten on the hard copy by the</u> recipient ~~of the document using the scanner~~, and to add ~~data reflective of~~ the handwritten content to the <u>electronic</u> document without replacing original content of the document.

41. (Currently amended) The printing device of claim 40, wherein the document ratification manager is configured to add the ~~data~~ <u>handwritten content</u> within an input block of the ~~unmodifiable~~ <u>electronic</u> document.